

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
Certificate of Willie L. Edney, II)	RETROACTIVE SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate # 099155)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 9, 2004. On October 1, 2001, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of his right to a hearing concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate # 099155 (certificate) to Mr. Willie L. Edney, II, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Edney received the notice, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Edney initially requested a hearing, which was scheduled on several occasions beginning with November 13, 2001. The hearing was postponed on two occasions due to Mr. Edney's activation to duty in the South Carolina Air National Guard for service in the Middle East. The latest scheduled hearing date is September 15-16, 2004, before John J. Fantry, Jr., Esquire, a hearing officer appointed by the State Board. Mr. Edney subsequently agreed through his attorney, Deena S. McRackan, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing by accepting a retroactive suspension of his certificate from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004. This suspension will be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary retroactive suspension of Mr. Edney's certificate from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004, upon the terms set forth above.

Willie L.
Edney, II
#099155

Initials

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Edney is a certified educator with over thirty years of teaching experience credit. Mr. Edney was employed for the 2000-2001 school year by Sumter School District Seventeen (District) as the principal of Bates Middle

School. He was placed on administrative leave on June 26, 2001, and subsequently resigned on July 18, 2003. Pornographic websites were accessed on the computers in Mr. Edney's office and in a conference room adjacent to his office. Mr. Edney denies accessing the websites but wishes to conclude this matter as soon as possible, especially since he expects to be called to duty in the Middle East again this year.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: "Unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its decision to accept the voluntary retroactive suspension of Mr. Edney's certificate # 099155, from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004. At the end of the suspension period, if he wants his certificate reinstated, Mr. Edney may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones
Dr. Mary E. Jones
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 9, 2004

I, Willie L. Edney, II, SC Teaching Certificate # 099155, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, for approval.

/S/ Willie L. Edney, II
Willie L. Edney, II

6/1/04
Date